

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing the application.

Claims 186 and 187 have been newly added with this response.

Claims 24-35, 42-53, 60-71, 78-89, 96-101, 108-113, 120-125, 132-137, 144-149, 156-161, 168-173, and 180-185 have been withdrawn from consideration, but still pend in the application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these claims in the future.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 24-35, 42-53, 60-71, 78-89, 96-101, 108-113, 120-125, 132-137, 144-149, 156-161, 168-173, and 180-185 have been identified as being directed toward an independent or distinct invention. Consequently, these claims have been withdrawn from consideration. The remaining claims have been constructively elected by original presentation. Applicants do not challenge the restriction requirement, nor the constructive election.

Election of Species

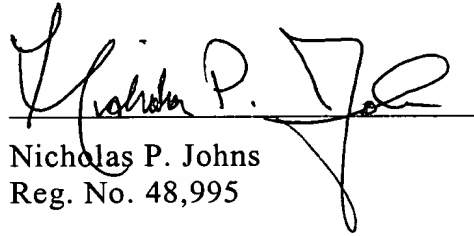
The Examiner has identified six species of the claimed invention, and has identified no generic claims. Applicants elect Species I (claims 18-23 and 36-41).

Claims 186 and 187 have been added to the application. These claims are generic and read upon each of the six species, including the elected species, Species I.

Conclusion

Claims 18-187 remain pending in the application. These claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above. This amendment is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request prompt reconsideration, allowance, and passage of the application to issue. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number below to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
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